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12/12/2011 Approved Minutes

Diversity Task Group (DTG)
December 12, 2011 Minutes
Approved on January 9, 2012

Present: Cheryl Hamilton, Mary Harrison, Jane Howard, Louise Popkin, Miriam Stein

The DTG display at the Library produced a list of comments about what diversity means to residents of Arlington. Some comments might be posted on the Facebook site. At a future meeting, DTG will decide what to do with comments.

Martin Luther King Day celebration in January can only serve desserts. Because of food permit requirements, a meal cannot be served.

Cheryl said she could help DTG use social media more effectively as an informational and outreach method. She will present some ideas about this and also about possible programming on refugees and immigrants.

The Spanish-speakers have met twice for conversations. The first session attracted 8 participants, the second 6. The focus has been on getting to know each other.

The group will not meet over the holidays. The Portuguese speaker group has not yet developed.

The DTG project bullet for the Town Survey will read: Facilitating gatherings for speakers of Spanish and, if there is interest, other languages.

The Superintendent's Diversity Advisory Committee is working with the new Human Resources officer to expand the pool of teachers and administrators of color from which to hire for positions in the Arlington Public Schools. The group will list all MA schools with significant enrollment of students of color. They will produce a brochure that will attract people of color to apply for administrative and teaching positions in Arlington. Cheryl mentioned that Maine has an ETAP program for refugees so they can return to their field of teaching. An issue is passing the certification tests; there are advocacy groups working on this.

DTG might work with Governance Task Group to organize an orientation for new Town Meeting Members. The Town will be redistricted, and seats will be open.